AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A laser oscillator comprising:

laser oscillation means for employing a discharge to excite a laser and to generate a laser beam, wherein the laser oscillation means comprises at least a discharge electrode including an electrode tube and an insulator;

a box for storing said laser oscillation means; and

an optical catalyst layer formed on the inner wall of said box, at a location where ultraviolet rays generated by said discharge are exposed, for absorbing said ultraviolet rays.

2. (currently amended): A laser oscillator comprising:

laser oscillation means for employing a discharge to excite a laser gas and to generate a laser beam;

a box for storing said laser oscillation means; and

a plate member provided at an inner wall of said box, at a location where ultraviolet rays generated by said discharge are exposed, and on which an optical catalyst layer is formed, for absorbing said ultraviolet rays.

3. (canceled).

4. (Previously Presented) A laser oscillator comprising:

laser oscillation means for employing a discharge to excite a laser gas and to generate a laser beam;

a box for storing said laser oscillation means; and

a graphitized layer formed on the inner wall of said box at a location where ultraviolet rays generated by said discharge are exposed.

5. (Previously Presented) A laser oscillator comprising:

laser oscillation means for employing a discharge to excite a laser gas and to generate a laser beam;

a box for storing said laser oscillation means; and

a plate member provided at an inner wall of said box, at a location where ultraviolet rays generated by said discharge are exposed, and on which a graphitized layer is formed.

6. (Original) A laser oscillator according to claim 4 or 5, wherein said graphitized layer absorbs ultraviolet rays.

7. (Previously Presented) A laser oscillator comprising:

laser oscillation means for employing a discharge by a pair of discharge electrodes that face each other across an intervening discharge space to excite a laser gas and to generate a laser beam;

a box for storing said laser oscillation means; and

a recess portion arranged in said box for receiving ultraviolet rays generated by said laser oscillation means, and for reflecting said ultraviolet rays so that the reflected light passes through said discharge space between said pair of discharge electrodes.

8-13. (Canceled)